

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A small boat stowage system for stowing a small boat on
5 board a parent boat, comprising:

a parent boat comprising a boat hull extending from bow
to stern;

a well formed below an upper deck level adjacent the
stern and sized to receive a boat smaller than the parent boat
10 below the deck level, the well being open at the deck level;
and

a movable cover assembly in the opening over the well,
the cover assembly flush with the deck level when in a closed
position, the cover assembly movable to expose the well so that
15 the smaller boat can pass through the opening when the cover is
in an open position.

2. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the cover assembly
comprises at least one cover member supported along edges of
20 the opening.

3. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the cover assembly
comprises at least one cover member hingedly supported along an
edge of the opening.

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4. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the cover assembly
comprises at least one bi-fold cover member supported along
edges of the opening.

- 30 5. The stowage system of claim 4, wherein the bi-fold cover
member is hingedly supported along an edge of the opening.

6. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the cover assembly comprises two bi-fold cover members supported along opposite edges of the opening and meeting at a centerline of the opening.
7. The stowage system of claim 6, wherein the cover assembly further includes an overlapping portion to close a gap between the two bi-fold cover members.
8. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the cover assembly comprises at least one cover member supported along a periphery of the opening by an edge supporting element.
9. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the edge supporting element comprises a bracket.
10. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the edge supporting element comprises a lip or ledge formed in the hull.
11. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the edge supporting element is formed around an entire perimeter of the opening.
12. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the cover assembly includes an opening mechanism operative to open the cover assembly.
13. The stowage system of claim 12, wherein the opening mechanism comprises a pneumatically actuated device.

14. The stowage system of claim 12, wherein the opening mechanism comprises a gas-filled strut.
15. The stowage system of claim 12, wherein the opening
5 mechanism comprises an electrically actuated device.
16. The stowage system of claim 12, wherein the opening mechanism comprises a hydraulically actuated device.
- 10 17. The stowage system of claim 12, wherein the opening mechanism is operative to assist in opening the cover assembly.
18. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the cover assembly includes a biasing mechanism operative to bias the cover
15 assembly to the open position, and a retaining mechanism operative to hold the cover assembly in the closed position against the biasing mechanism.
19. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the well comprises
20 a pan configured to fit within the hull.
20. The stowage system of claim 19, wherein the pan includes at least one removable wall panel.
- 25 21. The stowage system of claim 19, wherein the pan includes a central channel.
22. The stowage system of claim 19, further comprising supporting elements arranged to support the pan within the
30 hull.

23. The stowage system of claim 1, further comprising:
a davit assembly mountable on the boat hull adjacent the well and comprising a davit arm movable between a position over the opening and a position over a side of the boat and
5 configured to transfer the smaller boat into and out of the well.
24. The stowage system of claim 23, wherein the davit assembly is pivotable between the position over the opening and
10 the position over the side.
25. The stowage system of claim 23, wherein the davit assembly is rotatable about a vertical axis between the position over the opening and the position over the side.
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26. The stowage system of claim 23, wherein the davit assembly is removably mountable on the hull.
27. The stowage system of claim 23, wherein the davit
20 assembly is removable from the hull and stowable in the well along with the smaller boat.
28. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the well is sized to receive the smaller boat in an athwartship orientation.
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29. The stowage system of claim 1, wherein the well is sized to receive the smaller boat in a fore and aft orientation.
30. The stowage system of claim 1, further comprising a small
30 boat stowable in the well.

31. The stowage system of claim 30, wherein the small boat comprises a dinghy.
32. The stowage system of claim 31, wherein the dinghy
5 comprises an inflatable boat.
33. The stowage system of claim 31, wherein the dinghy comprises a hard shell boat.
- 10 34. The stowage system of claim 30, wherein the small boat comprises a dinghy, life raft, rowing boat, outboard motor boat, sail boat, surfboard, or personal water craft.
35. The stowage system of claim 1, further comprising:
15 a skeg assembly comprising a pair of skegs depending from a lower surface of the hull, the skegs located symmetrically on opposite sides of a center line of the hull extending from the bow to the stern, the skegs located closer to the stern than to the bow of the hull; and
20 wherein the skegs have an airfoil profile in transverse cross section and generally taper away from the hull.
36. The stowage system of claim 35, wherein each skeg
25 includes an opening therethrough, an engine shaft passing through the opening from an engine within the hull to a propeller below the hull aft of the skeg.
37. The stowage system of claim 36, wherein each skeg includes a bulge surrounding the engine shaft.

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38. The stowage system of claim 35, wherein each skeg supports an engine shaft passing through the skeg from an engine above the hull to a propeller below the hull aft of the skeg.

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39. The stowage system of claim 35, further comprising a pair of engines disposed within the hull, the engines each include a drive shaft and a propeller, each propeller located aft of the pair of skegs.

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40. The stowage system of claim 35, further comprising a jet drive engine having an underwater outlet, the skegs located aft of the underwater outlet.

15 41. The stowage system of claim 35, wherein each skeg further includes fins located near a bottom of each skeg.

42. The stowage system of claim 35, wherein each skeg is located in front of a rudder assembly, and a rudder brace
20 extends between a bottom of each skeg and the associated rudder assembly.

43. The stowage system of claim 42, wherein the rudder brace pivotably supports the rudder assembly.

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44. The stowage system of claim 35, wherein the skegs are formed integrally with the hull.

45. The stowage system of claim 35, wherein the skegs are
30 fastened to the hull.

46. A skeg assembly for a powered boat comprising:
a boat hull, the hull having a lower surface; and
a pair of skegs depending from the lower surface of the
hull, the skegs located symmetrically on opposite sides of a
center line of the hull extending from bow to stern, the skegs
located closer to the stern than to the bow of the hull;
the skegs having an airfoil profile in transverse cross
section and generally tapering away from the hull.
47. The skeg assembly of claim 46, wherein each skeg includes
an opening therethrough, an engine shaft passing through the
opening from an engine above the hull to a propeller below the
hull aft of the skeg.
48. The skeg assembly of claim 47, wherein each skeg includes
a bulge surrounding the engine shaft.
49. The skeg assembly of claim 46, wherein each skeg supports
an engine shaft passing through the skeg from an engine above
the hull to a propeller below the hull aft of the skeg.
50. The skeg assembly of claim 46, further comprising a pair
of engines disposed within the hull, the engines each include a
drive shaft and a propeller, each propeller located aft of
the pair of skegs.
51. The skeg assembly of claim 46, further comprising a jet
drive engine having an underwater outlet, the skegs located aft
of the underwater outlet.

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52. The skeg assembly of claim 46, further comprising an outboard engine located aft of the skegs.

53. The skeg assembly of claim 46, wherein each skeg further
5 includes fins located near a bottom of each skeg.

54. The skeg assembly of claim 46, wherein each skeg is located in front of a rudder assembly, and a rudder brace extends between a bottom of each skeg and the associated rudder
10 assembly.

55. The skeg assembly of claim 54, wherein the rudder brace pivotably supports the rudder assembly.

56. The skeg assembly of claim 46, wherein the skegs are
15 formed integrally with the hull.

57. The skeg assembly of claim 46, wherein the skegs are fastened to the hull.
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58. A stowage system for stowing a bulk item on board a parent boat, comprising:

a parent boat comprising a boat hull extending from bow to stern;

25 a well formed below an upper deck level adjacent the stern and sized to receive a bulk item smaller than the parent boat below the deck level, the well being open at the deck level; and

a movable cover assembly in the opening over the well,
30 the cover assembly flush with the deck level when in a closed position, the cover assembly movable to expose the well so that

the bulk item can pass through the opening when the cover is in an open position.